

ISTEP+ Language Conventions Rubric

Grades 9-12

(Approved August, 2004)

Students will write using standard English conventions as defined in the Indiana Academic Standards for their grade and for all previous grades.	
Score Point 4	<p><i>Does the writing sample exhibit superior command of language skills?</i></p> <p>A Score Point 4 paper exhibits a superior command of written English language conventions. The paper provides evidence that the student has a thorough control of the concepts outlined in the Indiana Academic Standards associated with the student's grade level. In a Score Point 4 paper, there are no errors that impair the flow of communication. Errors are generally of the first-draft variety or occur when the student attempts sophisticated sentence construction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the writing sample demonstrate superior command of capitalization conventions? • Does the writing sample demonstrate superior command of the mechanics of punctuation? • Does the writing sample demonstrate superior command of grade-level appropriate spelling? • Does the writing sample demonstrate superior command of grammar and English usage? • Does the writing sample demonstrate superior command of paragraphing? • Does the writing sample demonstrate superior command of sentence structure by not using run-on sentences or sentence fragments?
Score Point 3	<p><i>Does the writing sample exhibit good control of language skills?</i></p> <p>In a Score Point 3 paper, errors are occasional and are often of the first-draft variety; they have a minor impact on the flow of communication.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the writing sample demonstrate good control of capitalization conventions? • Does the writing sample demonstrate good control of the mechanics of punctuation? • Does the writing sample demonstrate good control of grade-level appropriate spelling? • Does the writing sample demonstrate good control of grammar and English usage? • Does the writing sample demonstrate good control of paragraphing? • Does the writing sample demonstrate good control of sentence structure by only occasionally using run-on sentences or sentence fragments?
Score Point 2	<p><i>Does the writing sample exhibit fair control of language skills?</i></p> <p>In a Score Point 2 paper, errors are typically frequent and may occasionally impede the flow of communication.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the writing sample demonstrate fair control of capitalization conventions? • Does the writing sample demonstrate fair control of the mechanics of punctuation? • Does the writing sample demonstrate fair control of grade-level appropriate spelling? • Does the writing sample demonstrate fair control of grammar and English usage? • Does the writing sample demonstrate fair control of paragraphing? • Does the writing sample demonstrate fair control of sentence structure by frequently using run-on sentences or sentence fragments?
Score Point 1	<p><i>Does the writing sample exhibit minimal or less than minimal control of language skills?</i></p> <p>In a Score Point 1 paper, errors are serious and numerous. The reader may need to stop and reread part of the sample and may struggle to discern the writer's meaning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the writing sample demonstrate only minimal control of capitalization conventions? • Does the writing sample demonstrate only minimal control of the mechanics of punctuation? • Does the writing sample demonstrate only minimal control of grade-level appropriate spelling? • Does the writing sample demonstrate only minimal control of grammar and English usage? • Does the writing sample demonstrate only minimal control of paragraphing? • Does the writing sample demonstrate only minimal control of sentence structure by using many run-on sentences or sentence fragments?

NOTES: *The elements of this rubric are applied holistically; no element is intended to supersede any other element. The variety and proportion of errors in relation to the length of the writing sample are considered. A very brief paper, consisting of two or three sentences, may receive no more than two score points.*